

Application No. 09/781,061

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-22, 24-25, 28, 33 and 35 are cancelled.

23. (Currently Amended) A molded shaft made ~~by the~~ using a gas injection molding process comprising:

~~gas injection molding~~ providing an elongated member having at least a portion which is hollow having an inside surface defining a shaft core and an outside surface defining a shaft functional surface;

forming at least one aperture in the elongated member extending from the inside surface to the outside surface;

placing at least a portion of the shaft elongated member in a mold;

~~filling the mold with a hardenable, moldable material, using gas injection molding, flowing the a~~  moldable material through at least a portion of the shaft core and the at least one aperture and forming a functional feature associated with the elongated member, the functional feature including at least one outside step extending an outside perimeter and a longitudinal distance and at least one inside step extending an inside perimeter and a longitudinal distance;

permitting the moldable material to harden to form ~~the~~ functional feature; and

removing the shaft elongated member and the functional feature from the mold providing an assembly, the functional feature of the

Application No. 09/781,061

assembly including a periphery surface having at least one surface portion radially spaced from at least one other surface portion and an outside periphery substantially oriented in a plurality of similar directions as an inside periphery over a longitudinal length of the functional feature wherein the functional feature includes an outside offset portion extending the entire outside perimeter and for a distance along a length of the shaft and an inside offset portion extending the entire inside perimeter and for a distance along the length of the shaft, the inside offset portion extending in a direction away from a center of the shaft core and the hardened, moldable material extending from the inside surface through the aperture gate, the material formed on at least a portion of the outside surface.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim 23 wherein gas injection molding includes forming the elongated member such that the a distance from the an inside surface to the an outside surface along at least a portion of the elongated member is substantially similar constant along a longitudinal length of the functional feature.

27. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim 23 further comprising coating at least a portion of the periphery surface shaft with a material adapted to provide a frictional driving force.

28. (Cancelled)

Application No. 09/781,061

29. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim 28 23 wherein the gas injection molding elongated member has results in a one piece construction assembly including the elongated member and the moldable material.

30. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim 28 29 wherein the elongated member functional feature comprises a plastic.

31. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim 28 29 wherein the elongated member assembly comprises at least one of SPS, polycarbonate, Acetal and ABS.

32. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim 28 29 further comprising applying a coating applied to at least a portion of an outside surface of the elongated member assembly.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim 28 23 wherein the molded shaft comprises at least one of a plastic, urethane, elastomer, and rubber.

35. (Cancelled)